Amended claims

      1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring medical record information of a patient between portable processing devices, comprising the steps of:

        on a first portable processing device,

          selecting information to be transferred in response to user command;

          establishing a <u>bidirectional</u> communication link with a second portable processing device; and

          communicating patient identification information and said selected information on said established communication link in response to user selection of a displayed icon.

      2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein

        <u>said established communication link with said second portable processing device includes a wireless link and</u>

        said step of selecting information to be transferred comprises selecting at least one of, (a) medical information associated with a plurality of patients, (b) medical information associated with a specific patient, (c) laboratory test results for a specific patient, (d) a medical report associated with a plurality of patients and (e) medical information associated with a specific healthcare provider and an associated group of patients.

      3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein

        said step of selecting information to be transferred includes the step of

        supporting user navigation, in response to user command, through a plurality of display images to enable selection of said information to be transferred.

      4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, including the step of

        configuring said method of transferring patient record information between portable processing devices by pre-selecting data elements comprising said patient identification information.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein

said data elements comprising said patient identification information include at least two of (a) username, (b) password, (c) patient identifier, (d) patient gender identifier, (e) patient birth date and (f) calling application identification supporting return of control to said calling application upon completion of communication on an established communication link.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, including the steps of

validating user authorization to access said selected information, and

inhibiting communication of said selected information on said established communication link in response to unsuccessful validation of user authorization to access said selected information.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, including the steps of

validating a second user is authorized to access said selected information, said second user being an intended recipient of said communicated selected information, and

inhibiting communication of said selected information on said established communication link in response to unsuccessful validation of second user authorization to access said communicated selected information.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, including the step of

receiving second user authorization information identifying a second user is authorized to access said selected information.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, including the step of

storing a plurality of communication settings associated with a plurality of corresponding communication links;

sequentially initiating communication on individual communication links, one at a time, using associated corresponding communication settings until an acknowledgement is received within a predetermined time-out window indicating a communication link with a second portable processing device is established.

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10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein

said plurality of communication links comprise at least two (a) connection via a PC compatible serial port, (b) connection via an infra-red link to a PC compatible serial port, (c) connection via an Ethernet compatible network (d) connection via an infra-red link to an Ethernet compatible network and (e) a wireless network connection.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein

said step of sequentially initiating communication is performed automatically upon detection of a lost connection to support seamless operation of said portable processing device.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein

said established communication link with said second portable processing device includes a wireless link and

said communication settings comprise a set of communication settings applicable to a corresponding individual communication link.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein

said set of communication settings include at least two of, (a) data rate, (b) protocol identifier, (c) sender identifier code, (d) error handling code identifier and (e) data format identifier.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said initiating communication step comprises

initiating communication on said plurality of communication links one at a time in a predetermined hierarchical sequential order.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 9, including the step of

communicating at least two of (a) username, (b) password, (c) patient identifier, (d) patient gender identifier, (e) patient birth date and (f) calling application identification supporting return of control to said calling application upon completion of communication on an established communication link.

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16. (Original) A method according to claim 9, including the step of
repeating said initiating communication step for a predetermined number of times until a connection is established or a communication failure is declared.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving medical record information communicated to a first receiving portable processing device from a second portable processing device, comprising the steps of:
on a first receiving portable processing device,
validating user authorization to access medical information;.
establishing a bidirectional communication link with a second portable processing device;
inhibiting access to said medical information in response to unsuccessful validation of user authorization, said inhibiting access being performed by at least one of,
(a) inhibiting receiving said medical information and associated patient identification information on said established communication link, and
(b) inhibiting storing said medical information and associated patient identification information received on said established communication link.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, including the step of
initiating generation of a message to prompt a user to affirm receipt of said medical information is desired, and
inhibiting receipt of said medical information in response to a non-affirmation.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein
said established communication link with said second portable processing device includes a wireless link and
said validation of user authorization comprises password validation.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 17, including the step of
configuring said method of transferring patient record information between portable processing devices by pre-selecting data elements comprising said patient identification information.

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21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein

said data elements comprising said patient identification information include at least two of (a) username, (b) password, (c) patient identifier, (d) patient gender identifier, (e) patient birth date and (f) calling application identification supporting return of control to said calling application upon completion of communication on an established communication link.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring medical record information of a patient between portable processing devices, comprising:

a first portable processing device including,

a navigation processor supporting user navigation and selection of information to be transferred; and

a communication network for,

establishing a bidirectional communication link with a second portable processing device; and

communicating patient identification information and said selected information on said established communication link in response to user selection of a displayed icon.